

Letters to the Editor

"Prophet's Dues"

I am disappointed to find your newspaper concurring in Secretary of State Herter's weird theory that the United States is answerable to Russia for the political behavior of Chiang Kai-shek, Syngman Rhee, Charles de Gaulle, Fidel Castro, Mr. Nehru, Harold Macmillan, the Fascist Franco, and the rest of these countries; we support wholly or in part with money and weapons of war.

Although it is true that by threatening to withdraw our money and weapons of war we can force or bend these countries to do things politically which they would not otherwise do, at least not in their right minds, it is most discouraging to find both the Secretary of State and you trumpeting this piece of damaging information to the world.

The blame - it - all - on the United States theory you and Mr. Herter support so enthusiastically is particularly unhappy because it is recently clear from Mr. Khrushchev's visit to China that he has no significant influence over the political decisions of China, and disclosure of this fact puts the Russians in a much more favorable propaganda light world-wide, principally through your efforts and Mr. Herter's.

Now is it honest to get caught twisting the meaning of the word "leader." The United States, it is true, does claim to be the "leader" of the non-Communist world, but we have never heretofore meant it to be apparent that we can pull the money string or the weapons of war string and incline our friends to behave this way or the other, vis-a-vis, say, the Russians.

Up to now all we've meant by "leader" was that our democracy and enterprise, free or otherwise, provided a worthy standard for our friends (see definition) to rally round. You and Mr. Herter, of all people, weren't supposed to give the handle of the propaganda wheel with such openhanded generosity to those whom you and Mr. Herter seem determined to keep as enemies.

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...schemes, such a rigid, misinformed, unimaginative attitude, lying at the base of your thinking and Mr. Herter's on foreign policy, makes it impossible to calculate easily and accurately on the multifaceted problem of communism throughout the world as a phenomenon which can be dealt with if we'll take the trouble to understand it honestly and clearly.

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